

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 14, 2005 has been carefully considered.

The Examiner had rejected original claims 1-6, 9 and 10 as being directly anticipated by Dubois et al. The Examiner further rejected original claims 7, 8 and 11 as being obvious over Dubois et al. in combination with Bavaveas. While the Office Action Summary indicated that claim 12 was similarly rejected, applicant was unable to find any reference in the Office Action to that claim but, for purposes of this amendment, has assumed that it was rejected for the same reasons as the other claims.

Original claims 1-12 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 13-20. Claim 13 now provides for:

A portable laundry system, said system including:

a laundry basket of the type having a bottom, a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls each extending upwardly from said bottom, wherein at least two of said walls include a handle formed at the top thereof with a tubular receptacle formed therein; and

at least one, tubular shaped, laundry product container for storing a laundry product, said laundry product container adapted to be inserted into and retained within at least one of said tubular receptacles formed in the handles of said laundry basket.

The portable laundry system of new claim 13 is a truly unique product and vastly different than anything described in the references relied upon by the Examiner. Commercially, it allows the user to take a single laundry basket to the laundry room or laundromat with everything they need to effect a load or two of laundry without having to juggle with bottles of detergent, bleach, fabric softeners and coins. The laundry product tubes and coin tube is contained within the handle of the laundry basket and are secured therein.

The references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose or suggest such a unique combination. Dubois et al. is directed to a generic plastic container with absolutely no tubes, particularly laundry product or coin tubes that are self-contained within the handle. The Braveras patent relates to a package for a liquid composition, particularly for liquid maintenance products. There is no disclosure or even the slightest suggestion in Braveras of its use for a portable laundry system, a tubular receptacle within its handle, or the inclusion of a laundry product container that is adapted to be inserted into and retained within such tubular receptacle.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that new claim 13 patentably distinguishes over either or both of the references cited by the Examiner and is in condition for immediate allowance.

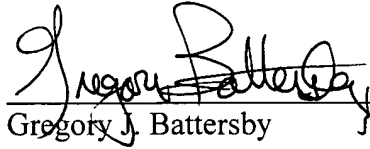
New claims 14-19 either depend from claim 13 or are independent claims of narrower scope than claim 13. Applicant submits that these claims similarly distinguish over the references of record for the same reason as claim 13.

With respect to claim 20, it should be pointed out that this claim provides for both a laundry product container and a coin container each of which include a slip ring on the outside of the end cap for limiting the extent to which the containers can be inserted into the tubular receptacles. There is absolutely no disclosure of such element in the references of record nor is there any suggestion of such a feature.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are therefore requested. In the event that the Examiner should determine that the aforesaid Amendment does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned

attorney by telephone to discuss what additional steps would be necessary to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Battersby", written over a horizontal line.

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